

Israelis raid Hizbollah base

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli warplanes pounded a base of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group in South Lebanon Sunday, wounding five guerrillas, security sources in the southern port of Sidon said. It was the first Israeli air raid on Lebanon since Israeli commandos seized Hizbollah (Party of God) cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid from his home in South Lebanon July 28. The sources said two planes, which were shielded by two others, flattened a military operations room in the village of 'Ain Abou Swar, a Hizbollah stronghold 20 kilometres southeast of Sidon. Three guerrillas were seriously wounded and rushed to hospital in Beirut, the sources said, while two others were being treated in the region. Two Israeli planes also flew over Sidon, a major base for Palestinians, during the 10-minute raid at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT), the sources said.

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King visits Cairo, discusses developments, pan-Arab, ACC issues with Mubarak

Jordan, Egypt hope for revived Arab efforts in Lebanon

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan is awaiting a tripartite Arab panel to resume its effort to mediate the Lebanese conflict, His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday.

Speaking to reporters after a three-hour meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, the King expressed hope that the panel — comprising the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria — would soon revive its mediation. "We sincerely hope that it will succeed in finding a solution to the Lebanese problem that could bring peace to Lebanon and help Lebanon to preserve its territorial sovereignty," the King said, with Mubarak by his side.

King Hussein, who held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in Amman Saturday before paying Sunday's brief working visit to Cairo, voiced deep regret over the situation in Lebanon. "It is time the tragedy is ended," he said in remarks carried by the Jordan News Agency Petra.

Mubarak told reporters in Cairo that Egypt hoped that Syria would back the tripartite Arab committee's efforts. "I hope Syria will cooperate with the committee to avoid a deadlock and reach a solution to the Lebanese problem," he said. (In Amman, Sharaa told a press conference that his country was fully committed to resolutions adopted by the Casablanca summit and was willing to cooperate with the three-member committee.)

The Arab League committee had reached a "dead end," but,

since then, the U.N. Security Council and several other major world powers as well as Arab countries have called on the panel to revive its efforts. An Algerian delegation arrived in Beirut Friday, but there had been no indication that its mission was linked to the committee.

Mubarak said Sunday that the Arabs should resolve the Lebanese crisis themselves. "If we do not solve it ourselves, it means we are inviting non-Arab countries to intervene and find a solution for us. This will make us appear weak," he said in remarks carried by Reuters.

An Arab summit should tackle the issue only after it was clear that the efforts of the three-member committee failed, Mubarak said.

King Hussein, who returned to Amman later Sunday, said Jordan always welcomed the idea of Arab summits since gatherings were bound to serve pan-Arab interests.

According to sources quoted by international news agencies, Egypt was also in contact with Syria to break the deadlock in Lebanon between the Syrian-backed civilian government of Salim al Hoss and the military cabinet of Michel Aoun, who is supported by Iraq. Analysts expected Cairo to launch further contacts in a bid to reach an Iraqi-Syrian agreement to halt arms supplies to their respec-

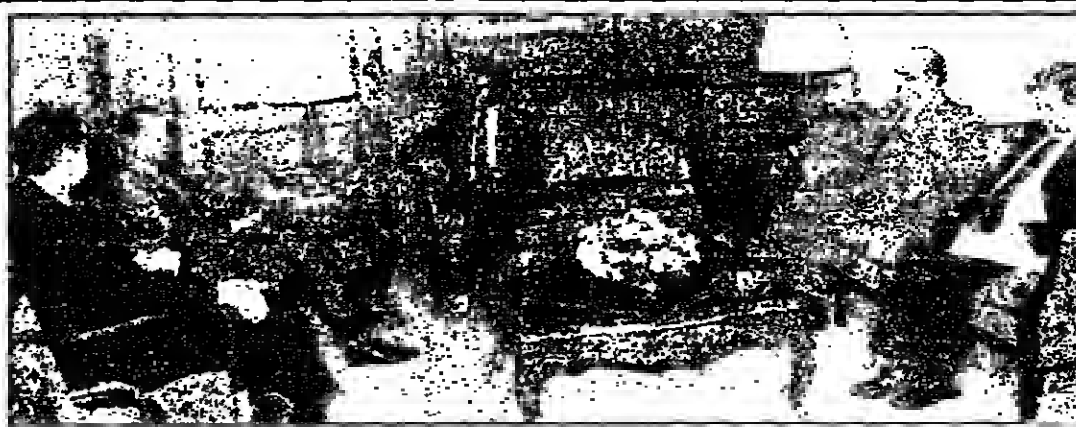
tive allies in Lebanon. Iraq offered to stop supplying arms to Aoun last month provided Syria also did likewise. The offer, however, did not produce common ground where the two sides could reach agreement.

Mubarak's reference to "non-Arab" intervention in Lebanon was obviously related to French and Soviet moves. France has sent envoys to Arab countries as well as some of its allies to discuss the situation after the return to Paris of a high-level official who held talks with Hoss as well as Aoun last week. The Soviet effort, which appears closely coordinated with Syria, is represented in a visit to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq by Gennadi Tarasov, personal envoy of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Tarasov arrived in Amman Sunday and was expected to leave for Iraq later in the day after talks here.

In talks with Sharaa Saturday, the King emphasised the need to end "the bloody conflict in Lebanon since it is an Arab country and whatever takes place there affects the security and future of the Arab nation."

While the main focus of the King's talks with Mubarak in Cairo was Lebanon, the two leaders also reviewed pan-Arab issues, developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and affairs related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. The King said the ACC heads of state were scheduled to meet in North Yemen next month.

The King was accompanied on the visit to Egypt by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran and the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (second from left) Sunday confers with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa (third from right).

Sharaa says Syria backs Arab efforts in Lebanon, hits Aoun

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa Sunday denied his country had placed burdens in the way of Arab League efforts to end the Lebanese problem and blamed army commander Michel Aoun for the escalation of the civil war in Lebanon.

A few hours before ending a two-day official visit to Jordan, Sharaa also said his country remained totally committed to resolutions on Lebanon adopted by the Casablanca Arab summit held in May and that Damascus was willing to cooperate with a tripartite Arab committee mandated by the summit to end the Lebanese strife.

However, he said, "the main burden of ending the conflict should be shouldered by the Lebanese themselves. There cannot be an end to the conflict as long as there is no national reconciliation based on equality for all Lebanese."

Assailing Aoun, who is vying with a Syrian-supported civilian government in Lebanon, Sharaa said: "The civil war in Lebanon was dormant for a long period of time and only flared up again when Aoun took his position illegally and started posing slogans which were strange to the Lebanese people."

At a press conference held at the Syrian ambassador's residence, Sharaa said the tripartite Arab committee — comprising Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Algeria — which said its efforts had reached a dead end earlier this month had not named Syria as the "stumbling block."

The Syrian foreign minister, who arrived here Saturday and was received by His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem later in the day, described his talks here as "satisfactory, friendly and the results were positive which should reflect positively on the brotherly relations between the two countries."

During his meetings, Sharaa said, "developments on the Lebanese front were discussed in detail, particularly that the tripartite committee has reported that efforts had reached a dead end."

"We stressed during our talks that

Sharif Zaid reaffirms Jordan's stand on Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received in his office at the Prime Ministry Sunday Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and discussed with him the Lebanese conflict and the best means to end it.

The prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's position which calls for extensive efforts to continue Arab endeavours to end the dispute in Lebanon through supporting the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee to reach a just and final solution to the problem.

"Jordan's reaffirmation of this position stems from its conviction of the need to concentrate Arab efforts on solving the Lebanese problem and to avoid internationalising the problem and stretching it beyond its limits," Sharif Zaid told Sharaa.

Sharaa welcomed the continued efforts of the tripartite Arab committee to end the dispute in Lebanon and expressed his country's resolve to continue to extend all effort to make these moves successful.

this situation had nothing to do with Syria and that we had answered the report of the committee and explained in our reply our position," Sharaa said.

"Syria will continue to extend all the help it could to implement the Casablanca resolutions in their entirety without ignoring any of their details... without any preconditions," Sharaa said. The resolutions call for a negotiated settlement to the Lebanese conflict based on political reforms, and gave the committee six months to accomplish its mission.

Sharaa said that his talks here did not cover the Iraqi call for an Arab summit on Lebanon. However, he implied that his country was not in favour of a summit by reaffirming that Damascus viewed the resolutions adopted in Casablanca offered a "comprehensive and just solution" to the Lebanese problem.

Asked whether the Soviet Union was involved in any serious effort to bring peace to Lebanon, the minister said "every effort is welcome, but the main burden should be shouldered by the Lebanese factions themselves."

Asked what the Syrian position was on the French naval build-up in eastern Mediterranean off the Lebanese coast, Sharaa said: "I think there have been many statements by different Lebanese parties who responded to the French move and I think this was sufficient."

Skirting a direct question whether Syria supported such statements, which included threats against France by pro-Iranian factions, Sharaa described as "positive" a "reconsideration by the French of their move." He was apparently referring to an announcement by the French government Sunday that the last French warship was pulling out of its position off the Lebanese coast.

Answering another question, Shar-

af said: "there has been a will (on the French side) to consider dialogue with Syria and we believe that through dialogue all sides can understand the positions and reasons behind various motives of the other side."

Sharaa said his country saw Syrian-Palestinian ties on two levels — with the Palestinian people on the one hand and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the other.

"We believe that the Palestinian issue should remain a national and centralised issue of importance to all Arab countries and it is sad that there were certain attempts lately to break the ties between Arab countries under the slogan of independent national decision."

"The relationship is not impossible," he said. "Whoever works for a cause cannot consider anything impossible. We in Syria work on directing and encouraging all Palestinian factions towards unity because unity is the main aim of the struggling Palestinian people who are paying with tens of victims in the intifada every day."

Syria is at odds with the leadership of the PLO. Several dissident PLO factions are based in Damascus.

According to Sharaa, Israel failed to achieve its objectives in abducting pro-Iranian Shiite cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid from South Lebanon June 28. He said Israel had sought to convince the U.S. that the abduction of Obeid, a spiritual leader of Hizbollah, would help efforts to free American and other Western hostages in Lebanon. "But," he said, "the Americans did not condone the abduction since it was an act of terrorism; and Obeid is a man of religion."

Sharaa said Syrian-Egyptian relations "were good and moving towards the better."

Tarasov takes Lebanon mission to Jordan, Iraq

By Mariam Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Soviet effort to stabilise a ceasefire in Lebanon and pave the way for renewed Arab mediation to end the country's 14-year-old civil conflict continued Sunday with a visit to Amman by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's personal envoy, Gennadi Tarasov.

Tarasov, who held talks with Syrian and Lebanese leaders in the last three days, arrived here by road through the Ramtha crossing. Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem held talks with the envoy, no details were immediately available, but official sources said the Soviet Union was "unlikely to involve itself in direct efforts to address Lebanon's fundamental problems other than stabilising the ceasefire."

The Soviet envoy began his mission amid rising tension in Lebanon with Syria deploying heavy armour in west Beirut and fears that Syrian troops and allied Lebanese militiamen were either poised to launch a major assault on the rightist stronghold in the Christian heartland or Syrian foe Michel Aoun, the Lebanese army commander, was planning to storm west Beirut where the country's gold reserves are located. Consequently, France moved some warships and a carrier to the region, in a move seen as aimed at pressuring Syria.

Though Tarasov was the senior-most Soviet official to visit Lebanon in 14 years, reports that Moscow was not involved in a direct peacekeeping effort in Lebanon and supported moves by the tripartite Arab committee were further evidenced by a statement made by Tarasov upon his arrival to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"We sympathise with the Lebanese people who have suffered so much," he said. "We hope that the resolutions adopted by the Casablanca Arab summit (which appointed the three-member committee) on Lebanon would be implemented. We are moving within this framework."

Salim Al Hoss, head of the pro-Syrian civilian government in Lebanon, said Saturday that Tarasov was seeking to stabilise a ceasefire, which has mostly held

since last week after a call by the U.N. Security Council.

Coinciding with the visit of Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa, Tarasov's stopover in Amman en route to Iraq, which supports Hoss rival Aoun, who heads a military government, indicated a close Jordanian involvement in efforts to settle the Lebanese problem. His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday Jordan was awaiting the tripartite committee to revive its mediation in Lebanon.

Tarasov, Petra said his talks in Amman would cover matter of Soviet-Jordanian interest, particularly the prevailing situation in the Middle East, and what the Soviet role could be in moves to restore stability and security to the region.

In a press conference in Amman Sunday, Sharaa commented on Tarasov's talks in Damascus: "We always had strong relations and friendship with the Soviet Union. Contacts and exchanges were always there between the leaderships of the two countries and to a large extent the views are very similar on Lebanon."

"We both believe in a political settlement," he said. Tarasov's visit to the region is seen as the second major Soviet diplomatic foray into the Middle East labyrinth after a five-state swing through the region by his boss Shevardnadze.

Analysts said the Tarasov mission as a reflection of Soviet concerns over what could have been a French-Syrian confrontation after France moved a sizeable naval fleet into eastern Mediterranean in what was described by Paris as a humanitarian mission but challenged as a military move by pro-Syrian Lebanese factions. However, tension appeared to have subsided Sunday after France announced it was pulling out the last of its warships off the Lebanese coast.

In his statement to Petra, Tarasov called for "practical steps to crystallise political efforts aimed at solving the Lebanese problem through national agreement." The Soviet called off all direct involvement in Lebanese politics after four Soviets were kidnapped in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli two years ago. One of the kidnappers was killed while

(Continued on page 2)

Israeli authorities expel 5 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli, defying world condemnation, expelled to Lebanon Sunday four West Bank Palestinians and a fifth one to France at his request.

The expulsions raised to 61 the number of Palestinians expelled by Israel since the uprising erupted in the occupied territories in December 1987.

The United Nations and the United States have condemned Israel for expelling Palestinians from their land, but army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said expulsions would continue because they helped to quell violence in the long term.

The body of a 20-year-old Palestinian suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities was found Saturday hanging from a pole in a West Bank orange grove, reports and Israeli radio said.

In other developments, Israeli troops shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian youth and raided several villages in the occupied

West Bank, reports said.

In clashes in the West Bank, seven Palestinians were shot and wounded by army troops Saturday, Arab hospital officials said. The wounded included a 13-year-old boy reported in serious condition with a gunshot to the neck.

In the village of Deir Al Sudan near Ramallah, an army patrol was attacked by stone-throwing youths, an army spokesman said, adding that an officer opened fire, fatally wounding a 17-year-old Arab. Israeli radio identified the youth as Sami Hassan Ad-Jaudi.

Palestinian journalists said soldiers raided at least three other villages in the Ramallah area to arrest suspected uprising ring-leaders.

The Israeli army said in a statement the Palestinians expelled to Lebanon "took part in leading or directing the uprising."

The fifth Palestinian, physicist Taysir Aruri, whose cause has been championed by international human rights groups, was ex-

pected to be expelled to France later Sunday.

The French Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying Aruri was welcome indefinitely in France and referring to his expulsion as "a measure contrary to the Geneva Convention protecting civilians in time of war."

None of the five expelled Sunday faced trial or formal charges. Appeals by four of the men were rejected by Israel's supreme court Thursday, and the fifth was turned down a month earlier. The court has never overturned an army expulsion order.

Aruri, 43, a physics professor at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University named "prisoner of conscience" by Amnesty International, was accused of being a member of the Palestinian Communist Party.

The army said he was "involved in planning the uprising and a member of the uprising's unified command."

(Continued on page 2)

Fighting flares in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Fighting flared Sunday between Syrian troops and allied militiamen and forces loyal to Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun and first reports said at least 12 people were injured.

A radical Iranian newspaper warned Pope John Paul II not to visit Lebanon, saying that would be "repulsive to Muslims."

Lebanon's senior Maronite Catholic cleric, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, assured Muslims Sunday that the pontiff's planned visit would be aimed at focusing world attention on the plight of Muslims and Christians alike after 14 years of civil war.

In an interview with Reuters, Sfeir said he accepts the need for political reforms in favour of Lebanon's Muslim majority (See page 2).

Tehran's Jomhuri Islami said that if the Pope accepted an invitation to visit Lebanon he would be supporting Aoun, leader of Lebanon's one million Christians who are mainly Maronites affiliated to the Vatican.

The official Islamic Republic news agency quoted the daily as

saying it would be "very disgraceful" for the Vatican to support "criminals like Aoun."

It declared: "It seems... hands are at work to change the face of events in Lebanon and want to justify the crimes of the Phalangists and Maronites in new moulds."

The daily made no overt threats against the pontiff.

Flares lit up the Beirut sky overnight as rival forces exchanged mortar and machinegun fire across the green fire.

Sporadic clashes continued during the day with shells striking near the presidential palace and other parts of east Beirut. Nine people were wounded on the eastern side, three on the western.

Major artillery battles abated after the United Nations Security Council appealed for a ceasefire Aug. 16.

The only French warship remaining off Lebanon when Paris scaled down its naval task force last week pulled back to Cyprus Sunday and its commander said France was trying to lower ten-

sion in the area.

The anti-submarine frigate Jean de Vienne arrived off the southern Cypriot port of Larnaca after sailing from the Lebanese coast during the night.

Syria and its Lebanese allies reacted angrily to the French naval mission, seeing it as a Paris bid to help Lebanon's Christian community.

France cut the naval task force, led by the aircraft carrier Foch, from eight to five warships last week and — with the exception of the Jean de Vienne — placed the ships between Cyprus and Crete, far from the conflict area.

The French navy said later in a statement that two men were missing after a helicopter from the Foch crashed into the sea during a training flight Saturday evening.

It said the two pilots of the helicopter were rescued immediately but searches through the night failed to find two other crew members.

The French government, for the second time in less than a month, is also sending a diplomatic envoy on a tour of the Mideast

Iran parliament debates cabinet

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian parliament Sunday began a crucial debate on a proposed cabinet with President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani defending from critics his decision to drop a hardline and Western minister.

The 270-strong parliament in a three-day session will decide whether the 22-man team proposed by Rafsanjani will chart Iran's future policy.

Parliament has rejected at least one minister in each of the previous seven cabinets it has voted on since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The president told deputies he had chosen a professional, non-partisan team best suited to Iran's needs in the economic reconstruction period after the eight-

year war with Iraq. The conflict ended in a ceasefire one year ago.

Rafsanjani, 55, elected Iran's first executive president in a landslide victory last month, has pledged allegiance to the revolutionary ideals of his late mentor, spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

But he has vowed to lead Iran down a dynamic and rational new track to prosperity, emphasising the need to tap the country's vast natural resources.

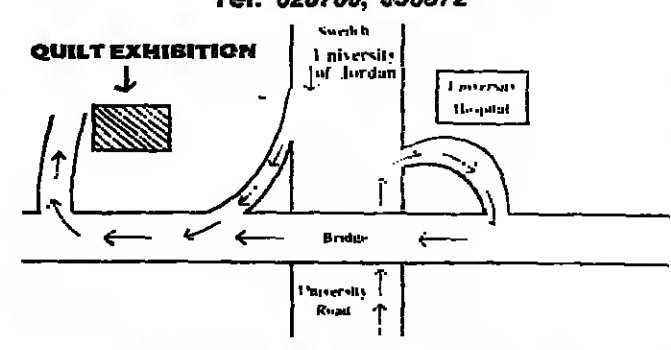
The daily Tehran Times predicted that all Rafsanjani's nominees would be approved despite his rejection of a plea by a majority of legislators to keep hardline Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi in the cabinet.

Jordan River Quilt Exhibit

Save the Children Jordan River Quilt Exhibition has been extended through Friday 1st of September.

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An Israeli policeman gestures to stop taking pictures as he leads a Palestinian away after arresting him in occupied Jerusalem.

مكتبة الأمل

Handicapped vocational training graduates receive diplomas

AMMAN (Petra) — Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped Sunday turned out the first batch of graduates who completed two-year courses at its vocational training centre, learning radio and television repair, to enable them to earn a living.

The courses have been organised by the society in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

Princess Majda Ra'ed, the society's president, distributed diplomas and awards to the handicapped graduates and announced in a speech that the centre is expanding its facilities and programmes to provide assistance to a greater number of handicapped children.

"Ten years have passed since the establishment of the society which aims to help the disabled people to be useful members of the society, earning their own living and enjoying a degree of self independence," Princess Majda said.

The centre, she added, will now have new sections for training children in wood work, book-binding and jewellery. An American expert for training the disabled will help the centre develop and expand its services and programmes to the handicapped children.

The society, according to Princess Majda, maintains links with the graduates, helping them to find work and providing them with loans that would enable them to start a business of their own.

The society's board and relatives of the graduates were present at the graduation ceremony.

Arab-Japanese dialogue to be held on Sept. 4

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Arab-Japanese dialogue and a two-day seminar on Japanese-Jordanian relations are to be held on Sept. 4 in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

According to the coordinator and rapporteur of both the dialogue and the seminar, Dr. Mazin Armouti, both events will be attended by 40 prominent political, economic and intellectual figures from Japan, Jordan and Arab countries.

"The events are of exceptional importance in the field of Arab-Japanese relations and Jordanian foreign relations, in view of the growing Japanese status worldwide," Armouti said in a press conference Sunday. The event is also important in helping to strengthen Arab-Japanese relations, in addition to the positive developments in the Japanese-Jordanian relations, Armouti added.

The dialogue and the seminar will be sponsored by the National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA), the Japanese government and the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in Jordan.

1st batch of nursing instructors graduates

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The first batch of nursing instructors graduated here from a paramedical institute, operated by the Health Ministry, and received their diplomas from Health Minister Zuhair Malhas.

The 14 graduates will be distributed to various nurse training centres in the Kingdom to help promote the nursing profession in the country, Malhas said in a speech at the graduation ceremony.

The Ministry of Health, Malhas added, continues to absorb all graduate nurses in Jordan at its health centres and hospitals.

The institute, which is now temporarily situated at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, was inaugurated last November by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Health Ministry is planning to set up a permanent centre for training the instructors at Zarqa, and according to Ministry of Health officials, they are needed to help meet the country's growing need of nurses from now and until the year 2000.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has contributed to the project, and its deputy director in Jordan delivered a speech at the ceremony, calling on the graduates to contribute towards promoting the process of primary health care in the Kingdom.

Ministry ends work on new labour law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Labour Ministry has finalised work on a law designed to organise matters related to trades and profession, in the country, in the course of its plans to issue a new labour law in Jordan, Minister of Labour Jamal Bdeir announced Sunday.

The law on organising trades, professions and vocations in Jordan is directly linked to labour, labourers and the national economy, and therefore is of paramount importance, the minister said in a statement following a meeting by a committee entrusted with working out the new labour law in its new version.

The existing labour law has been in force in the Kingdom since 1940, and the ministry's technical teams have been working on amendments to help the law cope with new developments in labour-related affairs.

The committee members said that the amendments would cover agreements with Arab and foreign nations and economic and social development in the Kingdom.

According to the minister, the law on trades defines the minimum wages for workers in each trade and also classifies trades and professions according to a set of specifications and the qualifications of the workers and the owners.

The minister noted that the new law provides for the absorption of modern technology designed to develop local industries.

He said that the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will have to provide its remarks on the draft law before it is put into force.

Representatives of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Trade, the Social Security Corporation, the VTC, the University of Jordan's Faculty of Law and the Jordanian Engineers and Bar Associations were present at the meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ISLAMIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION: The cabinet announced Sunday that Jordan will take part in a meeting to be held in Istanbul early next month to discuss economic and trade cooperation among Islamic states. The five-day meeting will be attended by a delegation led by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khaled Ghawannieh and Abdullah Kamaleh, and the Syrian artist Wafaa Al Masri at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist 'Adnan Al Hilla at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Incentives increase investment in industrial ventures at Sahab

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar, incentives to investors launching projects in Jordan and freedom for these investors to move their capital in and out of the country have contributed towards an increase in demands for industrial ventures at the Sahab Industrial City near Amman, according to Dr. Fayez Subeihat, director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

So far this year, 20 firms have started businesses at the Sahab Industrial City with a total capital of JD 4 million creating more than 300 new jobs, Subeihat noted in a statement following a JIEC board meeting.

The board, he said, examined the present situation at Sahab Industrial City and future investment schemes as envisaged by local and foreign companies in the city.

Subeihat expected numerous other industrial concerns to be established in 1989 at the Sahab Industrial City which recently carried out an expansion project acquiring further land and providing infrastructure to absorb additional firms.

The 20 new industries this year were set up to produce foodstuffs, plastic and rubber items, leather, chemicals, textiles, furniture, engineering products and equipment used in the construction industry.

Many of the Sahab Industrial City's products were displayed at a two-week fair — the first international industrial fair which was concluded Saturday at Marj Al Hamam, near Amman.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was among the visitors to the fair on its last day where he inspected samples of products by 170 Jordanian companies.

According to Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General, Mohammad Saqqaf, nearly 150,000 Arab and foreign nationals visited the fair which displayed pharmaceutical, oriental and traditional crafts, foodstuffs and furniture among a host of various products.

According to Saqqaf many of the businessmen and merchants have placed firm orders with a large number of the participating companies.

Assad to attend Aug. 29 Arab talks on education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in a meeting by Arab ministers responsible for education and scientific research in the Arab World which is due to open in Damascus on Aug. 29.

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad will lead the Jordanian delegation which also includes University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra and Royal Scientific Society President Hani Al Mulqi.

The ministers will discuss recommendations for the establishment of an Arabisation centre in Damascus, the implementation of resolutions from the previous conference, a memorandum from the Arab Health Ministers Council about Arabising medical terms and another by the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) on the equivalence of certificates in the Arab World.

AAU Secretary General Mohammad Dngbein had a meeting in Damascus Saturday with Dr. Fare Al Rawi, secretary general of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), and Syrian Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf to discuss preparations for the three-day meeting, the fourth of its kind organised by the AAU in cooperation with the Syrian government.

AAU sources here said that the ministers from different Arab



Nassereddin Al Assad

countries will focus their attention on policies pertaining to education and research at university level.

Qatanani to head Jordan's team to UNRWA advisory commission talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will attend an annual meeting by an advisory commission for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) which is due to open in Vienna Thursday, Aug. 31.

The commission, which comprises representatives of 10 nations will hear an annual report by UNRWA Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli on the agency's services to the Palestinian refugees in its fields of operations in occupied Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

The commission, which also assists the commissioner general with his work, comprises delegates from Belgium, Egypt, France, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs will represent Jordan at the coming meeting.

UNRWA sources here said that issues related to the agency's plans, outstanding problems and disputes with UNRWA staff could also come up at the meeting.

UNRWA employees in Jordan last week staged a one-day strike to back demands for better pay and sought help from Palestine President Yasser Arafat who was visiting Jordan to help settle their dispute with the agency.

UNRWA's commissioner general, based in Vienna, received memoranda over the issue from a local committee representing 6,000 agency employees in Jordan explaining the reason behind the strike and the need for improving the staff's living condition through extra pay in view of the devaluation of the Jordanian currency.

The strike entailed a total stoppage of work at the agency headquarters, schools, health centres operated by UNRWA and other services offered to the Palestinian refugees.

Government to spend JD 292m in southern region development

KARAK (Petra) — Most of the allocations for development in the southern governorates of Karak, Ma'an and Tafleeh in the past year went to industry, mining, education and agriculture, according to Karak Governor Fayez Ahbadi.

The governor said that estimated investments in the three regions during the current 1988-1990 five-year development plan is JD 292 million, and that JD 5 million were spent on expansion schemes at the phosphate mines in the past year alone.

The governor said that women and family projects, belath, higher education and tourism are other areas where allocations for 1988 were spent.

Ahbadi said that the five-year plan entails building a tourist hotel and the restoration of archaeological sites, including the ancient Karak fortress.

Ibex to settle at Dana preserve

AMMAN (USIS) — The rugged terrain of the Dana Wildlife Preserve, stretching from the outskirts of Tafleeh to Wadi Araba, is home to some of Jordan's native ibex. The ibex, now seen only rarely in small herds, is an endangered species.

The ibex has inhabited steep and rocky cliffs from eastern Egypt to northern Syria since the Iron Age. Its numbers in Jordan and throughout its native range are now dangerously small, partly because poaching has reduced the herds and partly because domestic sheep grazing has reduced its food sources.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided a grant of \$100,000 to assist the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in conserving the ibex at Dana Wildlife Preserve.

The USAID contribution will partially fund the total RSCN project cost of JD 181,000 for four guard post stations, a communications system, project vehicles, and fencing for the eastern and southern boundaries.

Dr. Anis Mouasher, president of the RSCN; Mrs. Leila Sharaf, RSCN vice president; Mr. Roscoe S. Suddarth, the United States ambassador to Jordan; and Mr. Lewis P. Reade, USAID director, attended ceremonies to sign the grant on Sunday, Aug. 27.

Work on the preserve will begin immediately.



Twenty baby ibex from the San Diego Zoo in the U.S. are being raised at the Shomari Wildlife Preserve.

Ministry to raise hotel rates by 45 to 50 per cent

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices of hotel rooms in Jordan will register a 45 to 50 per cent increase as part of a comprehensive tourism policy aimed at encouraging local tourism among Jordanians and guaranteeing better hotel services and maintenance vis-a-vis the changing economic situation in the Kingdom.



Yanal Hikmat

According to Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat, who is expected to approve the price-hike recommendation soon, the new prices reflect "a more realistic price range in view of the growing needs of hotel maintenance, services and the current economic situation in the Kingdom."

The new prices for Jordanians will range between JD 35 a night for single room at a five star hotel to JD 5 a night at a one star hotel. These prices only cover occupancy and do not include the 10 per cent government tax on hotel bills.

For foreign tourism however, Hikmat noted that the new prices will be quoted in American dollars and will range from \$100 a night for a single room at a five star hotel to \$12 at a one star hotel, although, payment can be made in Jordanian dinars according to the official rate of exchange on the first day of occupancy.

Hikmat told the Jordan Times that the decision not to charge foreigners in dollars "is part of a comprehensive government economic policy."

Hikmat added that he personally does not "approve of the dollarisation of our economy because I am proud of my currency and aim to continue supporting

it."

Prices fixed for Jordanian citizens, according to the minister, take into account "the financial realities of the average Jordanian family as well our hope to encourage Jordanians to know their country better and become acquainted with its touristic sites," he said.

Hikmat stressed that these special prices for Jordanians will only be given to the "key holder" and that this service will not be extended to visitors who have Jordanians make reservations for them.

The minister pointed out that although increase of over 45 per cent in hotel rates may seem overrated "it is in accordance with the average tourism prices in countries in the area and in many cases cheaper."

Hikmat said this price increase allows the hotels to maintain their hotel buildings and pay their workers, especially in view of the changes on the value of the Jordanian dinar during the last year.

"This price increase fits in with the formula of all these changes and needs, and blends in with the tourism market in the area," the minister said.

The immediate result of this

Britain to assist Jordan in curriculum reform programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — A memorandum of understanding was signed Sunday by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve in connection with the Ministry of Education's curriculum reform programme.

Under the agreement, £750,000 in technical assistance will be made available from the United Kingdom to Jordan over the next two years to assist the process of educational reform through the development of new skills and independent critical thinking among school children.

The project is in support of Jordan's long-term goal of increasing its scientific, mathematical and technological capabilities.

According to Ministry of Education sources, the World Bank and the Japanese government are also contributing to the implementation of the project which aims primarily to reform the education curricula for the secondary and elementary school stages.

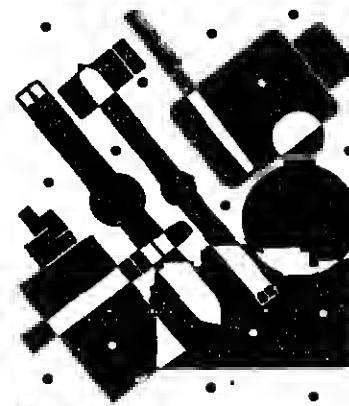
New curricula and learning material will be developed with the help of United Kingdom consultants, and assistance will also be made available to the ministry's new established Textbook Production Directorate to support the production of high quality cost effective textbooks.

Several officials from the Ministry of Planning and British embassy staff were present at the signing ceremony.

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Naguib Mahfouz and the rise of the Arabic novel

By Mohamed Siddiq

NAGUIB MAHFOUZ, last year's winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, is by far the best known and most prolific writer in the Arab World. He has been writing novels, short stories, plays and film scripts for more than 40 years now.

To suggest the extent of his contribution to modern Arabic literature, it may suffice to recall that the novel was barely a fledgling genre in Arabic when Mahfouz began writing fiction. Through his patient, methodical and farsighted cultivation he helped establish the novel as the major form of literary expression in modern Arabic literature. To reach the wider readership of the Arab World, he consciously chose to write in classical Arabic rather than in the particular vernacular of his native country. The Nobel Prize acknowledges the universal significance of Mahfouz's fiction.

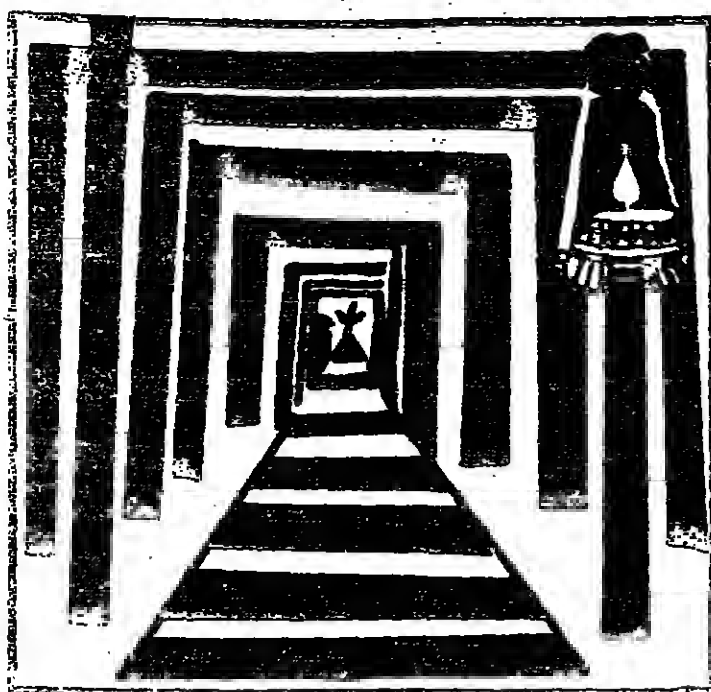
Even in 1911 to a low-ranking civil servant, Mahfouz grew up in a family of a tradition-rich section of historical Cairo. The presence of two grand mosques, al-Azhar and al-Husayn, in the vicinity still attracts an endless flow of visitors to that section of the city during all hours of the day. Every year, during the mawlid (birthday) of Husayn, the saint of folk religion, hundreds of thousands of people from all over Egypt flock to the quarters to witness the script of blessing. Mahfouz spent the formative years of his life in these old quarters so thoroughly suffused with tradition and history.

When he was 6, his family moved to a more fashionable, though no less historical, quarter of Cairo, Abbasiya, where he attended public elementary and secondary school. At age 19, he enrolled in the Department of Geography at Cairo University, from which he graduated in 1934.

Mahfouz's training in philosophy introduced him to the secular ideas of major European thinkers such as Durkheim, Marx, Freud and Nietzsche. His interest in secular knowledge was further augmented by the influence of Salama Moussa, an Egyptian Coptic, Italian personality who was working energetically to disseminate Western secular ideas in the Arab lands. During the early 1930s, Mahfouz published a number of articles, expounding the views of these thinkers, but he soon realised that his was not the vocation of the novelist.

For a livelihood, Mahfouz took on a job as a clerk in a government department. He worked in various government departments until his retirement in 1957. In addition to studying Western philosophy and politics, Mahfouz also read the works of great Western writers such as Shaw, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Turgenev, James Joyce, Kafka, Faulkner, Hemingway and Faulkner, among others. English has been Mahfouz's linguistic window onto the world.

Mahfouz's literary career began in the late thirties with the publication of his first collection of short stories, "The Whispers of Madness" (1937), and a historical novel, "The Egyptian Novel" (1938), which drew characters from ancient Egyptian history. The first volume of that



Fathi Ahmed, "The Gate," woodcut, 1983. From the cover of Naguib Mahfouz, "The Search."

trilogy was published in Salama Moussa's journal al-majalla al-Jadida. At the time, Mahfouz viewed this trilogy as the cornerstone of an ambitious project in which he planned to cast in fictional form the bulk of the ancient history of his native land. For this purpose he reportedly carried out painstaking research for many years and amassed an enormous amount of historical information. Though the trilogy met with considerable critical acclaim, he suddenly lost interest in the project and dropped it altogether soon thereafter.

The second and far more crucial phase of Mahfouz's literary career begins with the publication of his novel "New Cairo" in 1945. As its title suggests, the focus in this novel shifts to contemporary life in modern Egypt. Between 1945 and 1957, Mahfouz published seven more novels, all of which were written in the mode and style of social realism. The crowning achievement of this phase, and perhaps of his entire oeuvre, is the Cairene trilogy that Mahfouz wrote before the 1952 Revolution but did not publish until 1956/57.

Concern with social issues prevails in Mahfouz's realistic novels, many of which bear the names of the very quarters of historical Cairo in which Mahfouz grew up, e.g., "Khan el Khalili" (1946), "Midnight Alley" (1947), "Qasr al-Shaykh" (1957). His fictional characters come largely from the lower-middle-class stratum of Cairene society and many of them bear clear autobiographical marks. Many of Mahfouz's plots enact a search for upward mobility in a society severely strained by socio-economic stratification. The quest is seldom successful, but the plots often are. Telling familiar stories in ever-changing, freshly nuanced ways is a major characteristic of Mahfouz's fictional edifice and a key to understanding his widespread popularity in the Arab World.

Since realistic fiction is ultimately referable to history, the aesthetic can never be profitably divorced from the political and social in Mahfouz's fiction, no more than it can be in the work of

any major Third World writer. As Frederick Jameson has noted, fictional texts viewed within the context of the national quest of Third World societies for a distinctive political and cultural identity acquire the status of national allegories. This is not to say that such fiction is lacking in universal significance, only that the universal is packaged in a concrete particularity of local colour and specific national setting.

How intimately related the aesthetic and the political are in Mahfouz's outlook can be gathered from the following anecdote. At the advent of the 1952 Egyptian Revolution, Mahfouz gave up writing fiction for seven years. The reason, he later explained, was his conviction that, since the declared objective of the revolution was to cure the social ills that he was dramatising in his fiction, his task as a novelist had become superfluous. It was only after he had become disillusioned with the rule of Nasser and his fellow officers that he resumed writing fiction in 1959.

The novel he wrote after this interruption brought him into a close brush with the religious establishment of Egypt. "Children of Gehalawa" (1959) treats allegorically the history of monotheism by drawing characters whose names and actions evoke the figures of God, Adam, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad. Considered sacrilegious and banned from publication in Egypt, the novel was eventually published in Lebanon. The Egyptian publishing house that has exclusive rights to publishing Mahfouz's works in Arabic still omits mention of this novel in its listing of the author's works.

Mahfouz's fiction took yet another turn in the early '60s, this time an inward turn. The six novels and two collections of short stories he published between 1961 and 1967 deal with severe existential and spiritual crises in a hauntingly lyrical style. Modernistic narrative techniques such as the interior monologue, fragmented plots, disjointed time schemes and free association predominate in the fiction of his phase.

Since 1967, Mahfouz has written 16 more novels and 10 more collections of short stories. These vary greatly in thematic and stylistic features and defy easy categorisation. They include an epic, a novel in the traditional Arabic travel genre, a fictional autobiography, a variation on the Arabian Nights, a "Dialogue With Egypt's Leaders: From Mena to Sadat," and, only recently, a serialised novel in Egypt's major newspaper, Al-Ahram. During a private conversation in Cairo in 1978, a leading writer of the younger generation confided to me a grudging recognition of Mahfouz's amazing versatility and prolific output. "Before any younger writer sits down to write anything he must make sure that Mahfouz hasn't done it already, that is still no guarantee that he will not have done so before the younger writer gets around to writing his," Jordan Bright Magazine.



Michelle Pfeiffer in "Married to the Mob," "Dangerous Liaisons" and "Fever Pitch".

The year of Pfeiffer

By Robert Lindsey

LOS ANGELES — "Michelle," the voice coach said, "this time, don't think out the words as you sing them; just think of yourself as that girl in 'Casablanca' who's getting on the plane and may never see her man again."

For at least the 30th time, Michelle Pfeiffer, standing alone in a darkened studio beside Sunset Boulevard, recording the soundtrack for a new movie, sang the song "Before Than You Know." The voice of the actress who is perhaps best known for playing a witch and a mob moll was surprisingly strong and tender. But one note near the end was not quite right.

When she finished, she swore softly. It was a cigarette in the dark studio, and she was singing into a microphone for her voice coach and recording engineers in the adjoining control room. "Let's do it again right away, shall we?" she asked. "I can do it better."

Almost an hour later, after Pfeiffer had sung the song at least 20 times more, she said she was satisfied with her singing.

"I guess I can be 'hard on myself,'" she said a few minutes later during an interview in which she looked back on the last year.

It has been a year in which, propelled by the same sense of perfectionism and enthusiasm for her work that she demonstrated in the second birth Pfeiffer has emerged on the brink of major stardom.

During the same period, she

says, she has been successfully facing the challenge of living alone and making decisions on her own after the breakup of a seven-year marriage. "For the first time," she said, "I'm getting comfortable with being alone and actually really liking my life. I think I'm taking more control over things."

At 30, Pfeiffer has 12 movies and several major television productions among her credits. Although her work usually has earned favourable reviews, many of her roles have been in largely forgettable films such as "Grease II," "Charlie Chan and the Curse of the Dragon Queen" and "Sweet Liberty."

Since bewitching Jack Nicholson in the 1987 film, "The Witches of Eastwick," Pfeiffer has seldom starred in a major film. The singer began with a television film, John O'Hara's short story "Madame Jackson," in which Pfeiffer, who is still in love with a chemist, met during an automobile collision.

Then came "Married to the Mob," the breakthrough movie for Pfeiffer, in which she portrayed the resilient widow of Long Island mafia hit man with comedic and streetwise flair that reminded many of Carol Lombard. Next was the writer-director Robert Towne's "Fever Pitch," a convoluted film about drug dealing in Southern California, which Pfeiffer, apparently with her portrayal of a sexy, seductive and manipulative woman.

Then came "Dangerous Liaisons," a film based on the 18th-century French novel by Choderlos de Laclos. The 200-year-old French novel, "Les Liaisons dangereuses," was co-written with Claude Rains and John Malkovich as an adaptation of the French original. The film, which was recorded in France, was a part of it.

In the film, which was based on the French novel, she played a long-haired, seductive, and manipulative woman who seduces and destroys the lives of those around her.

She said she had not taken a long break after working "Dangerous Liaisons." "I did," she said, after three films about bad girls. But she said she was not looking for a script for "The Fabulous Life of John," the film for which she was recording "More Than You Know." She decided she wanted to be a part of it.

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Napalmed girl reunited with Pulitzer-winning photographer

HAVANA (AP) — The napalmed Vietnamese girl in the Pulitzer prize-winning picture that came to symbolize the atrocity of war is planning a trip to America with a message of reconciliation and hope.

Phan Thi Kim Phuc was a terrified 9-year-old running from her napalmed South Vietnam village one June day in 1972 when Associated Press photographer Nick Ut captured her moment of agony for the ages.

The gripping picture appeared on newspaper front pages worldwide, earning Kim as a personification of Vietnamese suffering, and ravaging the American conscience.

Unseen in the photograph were the ghastly burns. Her whole back and neck and arm were black like barbecue," Ut recalls.

"There was terrible heat. I was running, running, running away.

I tore off my burning clothes. But the burning didn't stop. I was alone with that terrible heat," Kim told Los Angeles Times Magazine writer Judith Coburn while preparing for a scheduled six-week trip across America.

The photograph led Gen. William Westmoreland, commander-in-chief of U.S. forces in Vietnam, to charge that Ut's picture was a fake. The general said Kim had been burned in "a libachii accident."

Ut said he had travelled with other journalists to the village of Trang Bang following three days of heavy fighting. The napalm that routed Kim and other villagers fell in the early afternoon.

As she ran, the girl cried that her flesh was "burning so hot," Ut said.

Kim and Ut met again July 24, their first encounter in 17 years, during a brief reunion in Havana.

"To me, she's part of the family," said Ut, whose famous picture hangs in the den of his suburban Los Angeles home. "I tell my children, Bettina and Michael, who were born in America, how lucky they are to escape war."

Ut fled his native Vietnam in April 1975 and worked two years in the U.S. Police Bureau before transferring to the Los Angeles office, where he continues to work as a staff photographer.

The Havana reunion was a shock for Ut. The wounded child he photographed and took to a hospital in 1972 had grown into a beautiful woman, the scars on her back, chest and arm concealed beneath a T-shirt.

Kim accepted a Vietnamese government invitation to go to Cuba in 1975, where she eventually began studies in pharmacology. She now lives in a student

apartment within a Havana high-rise.

"I want to live my life, marry, have children," she said, adding that she is "a joyful young woman."

Her U.S. visit, tentatively set for this fall, will attempt to soothe lingering bitterness from the bloody southeast Asian conflict of two decades ago.

"If I ever see those (South Vietnamese) pilots who dropped the bombs on me, or any American pilots, I would say to them, 'The war is over. The past is the past,'" she said. "I would ask those pilots what can they do to bring us all together."

"There's such a connection between Vietnam and America, but it would be one of friendship, not bitterness. Not enemies."

"But I'm not coming to America to talk about the war. I'm coming so Americans can meet

The award-winning photograph is 1972.

The girl in the photo is Kim Phuc. The 25-year-old woman wants to get to the States and live in New York harbor and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. "If she can't get to the States, anyone?" asks writer Robert F. Kennedy. The visit is part of a campaign to normalize U.S.-Vietnam relations.

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Banking experience is 'satanic'

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

"Fathal," "Murawigh" and "Wahsh" are some public descriptions of Dr. Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, over the moves he successfully engineered to stabilise the dinar and bewilder foreign currency arbitrageurs.

The Arabic descriptions, translating into "extremely smart," "deceiver" and "bull" respectively reflect the happiness, disappointment and energetic feelings of people watching the daily positive events, which are painful to opportunists and racketeers, taking place on the economic scene.

I don't intend to go into a profound review of the money-exchange business because everyone is seeing and hearing the news every hour on the hour and all kinds of reactions and anticipations are filling the air. But, a simple though meaningful big "thank you" should

be said to the Arab states and funds and the foreign governments and institutions as well as the Jordanian brains which all helped the Jordanian leadership steer the economy back to course.

The theme I would like to dwell upon today is really a continuation to the "personal loans" article which was published earlier this month. The "banking empire" seems so badly in need of reforms since it is the locomotive that trails all other economic wagons; the reform of which will never succeed if the main engine and driving power remains unrepaired.

Even repair is not enough when an asset's value sinks below zero due to the element of depreciation which should be called experience when referring to the human asset.

Unlike mechanics, farming, teaching, secretarial, medical and hundred other fields, the banking experience is satanic knowing that, at the very least, money is evil.

Banking symbolises honesty... and all other satanic features but banking can also be a nest of corruption ranging from leaking information to destabilising a whole system of a country either through bankers who know too much or too little or those who care less for any of the two.

The examples below are only samples of tens of cases that occur daily at more than a few banks and financial institutions in Jordan.

One bank follows international standards in analysing credit requests but the funny part is the management reading into the ratios and other key indicators which result from the analysis. In short, if the working capital is positive and, thus, the current ratio is not less than one, then the applicant deserves a loan or an overdraft because the financial situation warrants it. But, to be on the safe side, the bank's management decides that an additional real estate hypothecation or any other

form of tangible collateral would not harm to guard against negative working capital in the future.

The aforementioned twisted logic, which is the bank's solid philosophy regarding all credit analysis, means that applicants who carry a risk and need financial backing would not get it to the benefit of the unneedy who enjoy a current ratio (or even a quick asset ratio) above one.

Another sample at another bank is not complicated and does not require elaboration. The lending process there is a one-way downhill freeway... from the chief to the clerk whom the banks call credit officer and claim to be independent when he (sometimes she) only functions as an information gatherer and filing clerk.

The credit officer at a main branch of a third bank, or even the manager if the branch carries a lesser weight, sometimes eclipses the top management power because the network of

clients, friends, informers and subordinates he had intertwined over the years makes him valuable, indispensable and "God's gift to the bank" with great "experience".

The civilised, most respectful and grand way of lending somewhere else in Jordan is unbelievably smart. The concerned department prepares two sheets. One shows a "clean" or unsecured credit and other shows that the loan or the overdraft is against a foreign currency account in Europe or the United States blocked in favour of the financial institution in Jordan until all obligations of the "debtor" are settled.

If the Central Bank launches an inspection raid, courtesy requires that the auditors call first on the general manager who, while sipping a cup of tea with the team, rings the department of credit authorising the inspection (and the switch). The outcome is "clean" of course. Other inspectors see the

credit file as it should be... "Blocked".

Behind every debtor in Jordan, believe me, there is a story. The stories, regardless of tellers, speak of unfairness, favouritism, cheating, lying and personal benefits.

I was offered a "baggy" (haggle) to buy a plot of land years ago with some "partners" who turned out to be top managers of banks when I was secretly shown the names. The settler's agent was probably implying the "eat but feed" policy.

Should bankers in any way be blamed?

What was said was one side of the coin only. The banks complain of high competition, which forces a fight at all levels that, as an example, the element of trust among themselves no longer exists. If Bank A sends "good" confidential information about a client to Bank B, the latter becomes more doubtful that the report was cosmetic to transfer "a bad account" to its books with the

prior knowledge of the client.

A branch of Bank C offered a branch of Bank D a guarantee to give a client a certain amount for a specific period. The strange deal, coming from a bank offering its own guarantee for the facility, sounded fishy. Investigations revealed that Bank C was under pressure to liquidate the client's overdraft by all means and, unable to do so, opted to the said method which technically fits the purpose perfectly.

There is absolutely no way that regulations, inspections or mergers can lift banking in Jordan to the level where everybody can be happy. However, to eliminate some corruption and ensure a fairer system, two main policies should be seriously considered.

1) To have banks and financial institutions adopt a strategy of quick transfers whereby key personnel should "depreciate" faster than the office furniture that he (or she) occupies;

2) Without setting up a new

institution, to widen the role of the Association of Banks in Jordan to "reconcile banks" and help the businessmen who have good reason to say that they are "victims" of banks' intransigence.

One last note... Banks prepare a quarterly report that classifies all outstanding credits into sectors to enable policy-makers to monitor leading trends and adjust economic policies accordingly. Banks consolidate the reports from their branches and the Central Bank reconsolidates all input and publishes it as official government statistics.

Such important statistics, according to one knowledgeable source only take him about 10 minutes to prepare whereas, if the figures are to be accurate and meaningful, the job entails at least eight hours work.

The source says he is under orders to "invent" any figures as long as the grand total tallies with the gross figure in the general ledger.

Gross, isn't it?

Toyota sales exceed \$50b

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. has become Japan's first manufacturing company registering sales of more than 7 trillion yen (\$48.9 billion) in the business year ending June 1989, a company official said Saturday.

Toyota's overall sales were 7.191 trillion yen (\$50.2 billion), up 7.5 per cent over the previous term, Toyota spokesman Hajime Sakaguchi said.

"Thanks to Japan robust economy, the domestic market for automobile has expanded due partly to an average nine per cent decline in car prices" following a reform of the tax system in April, Sakaguchi said.

The report said Toyota's pre-tax earnings rose 9.2 per cent to \$69.86 billion (\$3.985 billion) from the previous year's \$21.706 billion yen (\$3.648 billion).

With its latest unconsolidated pre-tax profits, Toyota was the nation's most profitable company for the second consecutive year, surpassing the 425.9 billion yen (\$2.98 billion) unconsolidated pretax profit reported by Japan's telecommunications giant, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), whose 1989 business year ended March 31, Kawaguchi said.

During its fiscal 1989 year,

Toyota sold 2,125,173 vehicles, up 8.9 per cent from a year earlier. Exports totalled 1,807,377 vehicles, a rise of 0.6 per cent from the previous year, the report said.

Of the exports, Sakaguchi said shipments to the United States and Canada, the company's main export destinations, posted a merger 1.6 per cent increase to 953,900 vehicles, and car exports to Europe declined by 2.0 per cent to 431,000 vehicles.

Toyota exported a combined total of 1,807,377 vehicles to South East Asia and Australia, up 0.6 per cent from a year before.

Toyota predicted its sales of motor vehicles, excluding industrial vehicles, will rise 3.8 per cent to 2.3 million units in the domestic market in the financial year ending June 1990, and it will export 1.70 million units in that period.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Cabinet highly classifies 4 projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday approved classifying four Jordanian projects as certified economic schemes enjoying exemptions and facilities under the encouragement of investment law. A statement said that the four projects have a total capital of JD 4.6 million and employ 258 workers providing products in demand on the local market. One of these projects is a carpet factory which cost JD 3 million and is owned by Jordanian and Arab investors. The factory produces 2.7 million metres of moquette and 12,000 square metres of carpet annually. The other three investment projects, which assemble radio and television sets and process tissue paper, have an overall capital of JD 1.6 million and employ 85 workers.

Iran slashes medicine imports

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has cut imports of foreign medicines by 75 per cent, according to the dean of the Kerman Pharmaceutical College. In a speech to mark "Pharmaceutical Day, Dr. Shams Ardakani said Iran's introduction of a plan to produce local generic medicines had reduced the number imported from 4,000 to 1,000. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the dean as saying 90 per cent of the basic materials needed for medicines was produced locally. "The total necessary material will be produced inside the country shortly," Ardakani said.

Interest eats up Murdoch's profits

LONDON (R) — Australian-born media magnate Rupert Murdoch's News International firm, which launched its Sky Television satellite system this year, has reported an almost 80 per cent drop in profits for the year to the end of June. News International said profits stood at £20.6 million (\$32.3 million) compared with £88.2 million (\$138.4 million) in the previous year. Company secretary Peter Stehnenberger said the drop was largely due to interest payments on debts, which more than doubled during the year. The costs of launching Sky Television, estimated by the company at £75 million (\$117 million), was not included in the calculation. The costs had been deferred until the operation is complete. Operating profit, not including the interest payments and other exceptional costs, rose by 16 per cent to £175 million.

Salinas demands productivity

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Workers at state-owned companies must improve their productivity, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari warned the nation's largest and most powerful labour group in a speech. State-owned businesses "must follow the pace of economic recovery," he said. "We can't spend resources subsidising unproductivity," Salinas said he would not let union corruption stand in the way of his goal of modernising the Mexican economy and attracting more foreign investors.

Taiwanese decry soaring land and housing prices

TAIPEI (AP) — More than 10,000 people staged a protest in a downtown shopping and residential area Saturday to demand strict government measures to curb soaring land and house prices.

The protesters claimed they could never afford to buy their own homes.

Lee Hsin-Chang, who heads the Houseless People's Union that organised the demonstration, told the crowd: "A house is not a commercial product to be speculated. It is our basic right to own a house."

Organisers said rentals and housing prices in Taipei soared mainly because of rampant speculation by companies who buy massive land or housing tracts.

They cited a government report that says a Taipei apartment was sold for an average of 12 million Taiwan dollars (\$460,000) last year, and it would take 19 years of an average family's entire income to buy one.

As housing costs have increased more than 200 per cent since 1987, they said, monthly rental for a two-bedroom apartment in Taipei amounted to up to \$1,100 this year.

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Experience needed

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Location: Mecca St. Um Db, Tla Ali; 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1st floor with garage. Rented for first time.
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Location: Opposite Amra Hotel.
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Y.W.C.A. - AMMAN PIANO ACCOMPANIST REQUIRED (NOT LESS THAN GRADE 8 OR EQUIVALENT)

To accompany the YWCA Choir every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. starting August 29, 1989 through December 14, 1989.
Fees depend on qualifications.

For audition please call Tels No. 641119, 641793, 655475.

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The Y.W.C.A. - Amman is glad to invite male and female singers to join its 4-Voice Choir in preparation for the Annual Christmas Concert that will be held between December 8 - 14, 1989.

All those interested are welcome to call on the Y.W.C.A., 3rd Circle, on Tuesday August 29, 1989, at 7.30 p.m.

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 10.00. Knowledge of music is an asset.

For registration please call the Y.W.C.A. on Tels: 641119, 641793, 655475.

Come over it will be fun, and you will meet a lot of people.

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Cinema PLAZA Tel: 677420

RED SCORPION

Show: 12:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 p.m.

الأخبار

Egypt beats Kenya, tops World Cup zone

CAIRO (AP) — A hanging, looping second-half header by Ibrahim Hassan was Egypt's second goal in four minutes Saturday night and cemented a 2-0 World Cup qualifying soccer victory over Kenya in Africa's Zone B.

Egypt advanced to the competition's third round, opening Oct. 7 at Algeria, winner of the African Zone A. The winner of their two-match series — the return match in Cairo is Nov. 17 — competes in next summer's World Cup finals in Italy.

After a backstre first half Saturday night, Egypt drew first blood in the 15th minute of the second half off the right foot of midfielder Hisham Abdel-Rasoul, who scored winning goals in Egypt's two zone B matches against Malawi.

Defender Taher Abu-Zayd skidded the ball along the ground to the star midfielder. Abdel-Rasoul took it into the Kenyan penalty area and fired a powerful low kick beneath the stretch of Kenyan goalkeeper Washington Mubonyi.

Less than four minutes later, tall Egyptian defender Rabea Yassir took the ball through the Kenyans to the just outside the goalie's box.

Yassir pulled up and fed Hassan, another defender, across the field, who made a diving stab with his head and sent the ball soaring over Mubonyi's head into the Kenyan goal.

The game, at Cairo's interna-

tional stadium before 120,000 celebrating spectators, began with a series of quick but poorly coordinated first-half attacks by Egypt, which failed to avail of three corner kicks in less than three minutes.

In the eighth minute, forward Gamal Abdel-Hamid put the ball into the Kenyan goal, but referee Rafeez Aly Taher of Tanzania disqualified the goal on ground Abdel-Hamid had pushed a Kenyan player.

Egyptian defender Hany Ramzy also drew a yellow card in the first half for continuing play after the referee's whistle.

Kenya missed a scoring chance in the 22nd minutes when midfielder Peter Dawo aimed a corner at the goal but goalie Ahmed Shobair caught the ball.

After Egypt's second goal, Kenya tried to mount several offensives but was thwarted by the stiffened Egyptian defense. The match ended with wild cheering from the home fans.

Egypt and Kenya tied 0-0 in their first match on June 11 at Nairobi.

The two went into Saturday's match which Egypt leading six points to five for the zone B qualifier's spot. The victory gave Egypt the zone title, eight points to five.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

FOOTBALL POLL PUTS MICHIGAN FIRST: Michigan's football team is picking up where Michigan's basketball team left off — no. 1 in the country. Five months after winning the NCAA basketball championship, the Wolverines are the preseason pick as the nation's top college football team in the Associated Press' top 25 poll. Michigan received 23 first-place votes and 1,439 points to edge defending national champion Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish were ranked no. 1 on 20 ballots and received 1,378 points. The only other teams receiving first-place votes were Nebraska (10), Miami (4), Southern California (1) and Florida State (2). (AP)

BAYERN SUFFER FIRST DEFEAT: Defending champions Bayern Munich suffered their first defeat of the season in the West German first division Saturday, losing 1-0 at Waldhof Mannheim. The Bavarian team are now second behind Eintracht Frankfurt, who scored twice in the final three minutes through Weber and Lothar Sippel to beat Bayer Uerdingen 2-1 to establish a two-point lead at the top of the table. Bayern's coach Jupp Heynckes said his team may still have had their heads in the clouds after their midweek 5-1 thrashing of Cologne. "I was worried after our magnificent win Wednesday that we might not get back to our normal, every day form — and we didn't," he said. "We didn't apply the pressure as I had hoped." (R)

EVANS WINS 3 EVENTS IN U.S.-USSR SWIM MEET: The American men's team finished 1-2 in three of the final five events and Olympian Janet Evans Saturday became the first woman in the history of the USA-USSR series to win three individual events as the U.S. cruised to a 201-136 victory at the Alamo Cup dual swimming meet in Atlanta. Twenty meet records fell in the three-day competition, the first between the two countries since 1962 and only the sixth in history. The U.S. women claimed 10 individual meet marks and two relays while the American men broke five individual meet records. (AP)

INDONESIA KEEPS UP WINNING WAYS AT SEA GAMES: Indonesia continued to dominate the Southeast Asian games Saturday after seven days of competition. Indonesia boosted its gold medal tally to 73 by winning golds in women's team badminton, cycling, bodybuilding, taekwondo and swimming. Runner-up Thailand won golds in shooting, cycling, swimming and judo for a total of 46. Host Malaysia shared the day's spotlight to win golds in men's team badminton, in golf, two in cycling, swimming and three in taekwondo for a total of 43 golds, good for third place. The Philippines, fourth with 19, won two golds in the women's individual and team golf events. Fifth-place Singapore had golds in golf, shooting, bodybuilding, swimming and judo for 18. (AP)

OFFICIAL SAYS 10-MILE ROAD RECORD SHOULD STAND: Cathy O'Brien's world 10-mile (16-kilometer) road record Saturday should stand despite a short deviation in the course caused by a police officer's effort to avoid an accident, a track official said in Michigan. The 22-year-old Boston resident led from the start on her way to a 45-second victory in the 13th annual Crim road race. The 1988 U.S. Olympic team marathoner finished in 51 minutes, 47 seconds. If certified by the Athletic Conference, the governing body for track and field competition in the United States, O'Brien would knock 36 seconds off the mark of 52:23 set by Lisa Martin of Australia at the 1987 Cherry Blossom race in Washington. (AP)

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Spontaneous feelings are the prime motivator in producing many different types of action. Try to select personal and business environments that fit your needs and desires. Don't grumble.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your patience may be tested at work. Solutions come from personal relationships that seem to be at a low ebb. Study to enhance your knowledge.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your relationships are solid, and affection can be sparked without much effort. Contact a friend who is willing to hear from you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Change your plans to avoid pressure. Someone who is near can teach you a lot. Ideas flow, and you can use your home for socializing.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Meeting an old friend will make for an exciting day. Tuning into nature as an outside activity would be a welcome change.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Ease the pace, but remain focused. Allow yourself time for privacy and introspection. Get errands done early. Avoid dwelling in the past.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your talents are many, but you may not

reach your potential if you do not focus on just one or two. Work on old projects that should be finished.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you are feeling satisfied, it's because of your own efforts. Work with people who can bring you rewards. Contact your parents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You believe in what you do, and have the energy to commit yourself to new projects. Your sensual nature is strong today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do not rely on your memory. Write things down. It's nice to feel on top of things. Someone would like to share their appreciation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Gains are showing up by surprise. Become more flexible, and a sense of security and comfort will help calm you. Relax and enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Take on boring, unpleasant tasks early in the day. Do something you enjoy. Talk with a friend, and listen to his or her positive feedback.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) It's a give and take situation at the moment. Study your finances carefully. Avoid letting your feelings interfere with good judgment.

Brazilian narrows gap in world standings

Senna wins Belgian Grand Prix

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — World champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil won the Belgian Grand Prix Sunday with brilliant wet-weather racing to narrow the gap in the world standings on McLaren Honda teammate Alain Prost of France, who finished second.

Nigel Mansell of Britain, driving a Ferrari, took third place only yards behind Prost, and hometown favorite Thierry Boutsen finished fourth in a race which was affected by rain and a wet track throughout.

Leading from start to finish in the 305.368-kilometre race on the Spa-Francorchamps racetrack, Senna won in 1 hour, 38 minutes and 35.941 seconds — 7.988

seconds ahead of Prost. Mansell trailed by 8.343 seconds.

In the standings for the world championship, Senna now has 51 points, trailing Prost by 11 points, while Mansell has 38. It was Senna's fifth win this season and his second in a row in Belgium.

While the Brazilian led throughout, Prost and Mansell were locked together during the late part of the race in a heated

battle for second place. But the Frenchman never allowed Mansell to get through, despite the Briton's many attempts to pass Prost.

When he got close to Prost, Mansell said he often "could not see anything at all" because of the water coming from Prost's tires.

Alessandro Nannini of Italy finished fifth, driving a Benetton Ford, and Briton Derek Warwick drove his Arrows Ford to sixth place.

Senna got off to a fast start, leaving all opposition in the dense spray that hung heavy in between the pines lining the hilly circuit. It reduced visibility to nearly zero at

some stages. The wetness "was bad for me, but it was worse for those who came behind," Senna said.

Senna steadily moved away from the pack and led by 15 seconds after as many laps. From then on he controlled the race from the front, making sure no one got close.

The race had to be delayed a half hour after a rainstorm covered parts of the circuit with mud.

The two McLaren Hondas set the tone from the start, trailed at first by the two Ferraris of Austrian Gerhard Berger and Mansell.

Navratilova, Sanchez make finals in Canada

TORONTO (R) — Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario had to rally to beat Gabriela Sabatini in a semifinal Saturday but top-seed Martina Navratilova breezed by Australian Anne Minter to reach the finals of the Canadian Open tennis championships.

Sanchez-Vicario, winner of the French Open this year, beat her Argentine opponent 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 and Navratilova continued her run for the U.S. Open which begins next week by beating up Minter 6-0, 6-2.

After struggling all week with a balky first serve, Navratilova, a three-time Canadian champion, served superbly and volleyed masterfully in her 6-0, 6-2 dismissal of unseeded Australian Anne Minter.

"I got the rhythm back on my serve," Navratilova said, explaining that she had watched a replay of the Friday match in which she'd lost her serves six times — twice on double faults — and adjusted her toss-and-shoulder turn.

While Navratilova coasted into the final in 62 minutes, Sanchez-Vicario needed nearly three hours to notch her first win in eight attempts against the 19-year-old Sabatini.

As she did against West German Steffi Graf in the French Open final, the 17-year-old Sanchez-Vicario refused to quit — despite having had her serve broken six times to 6-3, 5-1.

Two games later, after saving the match point with a sizzling cross court winner, Sanchez-Vicario clinched her first and shouted, "Vamos." (let's go).

Go she did — non-stop, motorizing tirelessly about the court, running down balls and refusing to surrender even though Sabatini, the second seed and defending Canadian champion, outplayed her for much of the see-saw final set in which neither player held serve for the first four games.

In the final five games, Sabatini tired and was attacked by periodic pain from a cramp.

Navratilova, British soccer round-up

Arsenal 0, Wimbledon 0 (0-0)

Arsenal was lucky to survive a series of scares in the Highbury gloom. Wimbledon winger Dennis Wise twice picked out central defender Eric Young in the space of a minute from corners, keeper John Lukic palming away the first and Nigel Winterburn kicking the second from under the bar.

Aston Villa 1, Charlton 1 (1-1)

Substitute Ian Olney's first goal of the season salvaged a point for Aston Villa, which along with Charlton had to settle for a third consecutive tie. Olney came on in the 23rd minute in an early tactical reshuffle by Villa manager Graham Taylor and within 16 minutes the move paid off when he scored from close range. Paul Jones had scored Charlton's goal in the 10th minute.

Chelsea 4, Sheffield Wednesday 0 (3-0)

Graham Roberts scored from the penalty spot in the 32nd minute and Alan Harper kicked the ball into his own net two minutes later. A Kerry Dixon header gave Chelsea its third goal of the first half and Kevin McAlistler completed the scoring early in the second half.

Crystal Palace 0, Coventry 1 (0-1)

Coventry captain Brian Kilcline scored on a 20-yard free kick to leave Crystal Palace still looking for its first victory in the first division. Kilcline's goal came in the 24th minute when Palace left holes in its defensive wall and he took full advantage, driving home a low shot with the aid of a deflection.

Derby 2, Manchester United 0 (1-0)

A 78th-minute penalty from Dean Saunders clinched a Derby victory that kept up its unbeaten start to the season. Paul Goddard had poked in a rebound for the game's opening goal in the 11th minute.

Everton 3, Southampton 0 (2-0)

Everton lost Scottish interna-

tional striker Graeme Sharp on a tackle that earned Jimmy Case a booking, but still comfortably beat the Saints 3-0 at Goodison Park. Norman Whiteside shot Everton ahead in the sixth minute and Mike Newell made it 2-0 after 35 minutes. Two minutes into the second half, Stuart McCall hit Everton's third goal, courtesy of a superb pass from Kevin Sheedy.

Luton 0, Liverpool 0 (0-0)

Former merseyside goalie Alec Chamberlain defied Liverpool as Luton gained a tie at home. The 25-year-old Chamberlain, who tired of understudy Neville Southall at Everton, kept John Barnes and Ian Rush at bay for 90 frequently lifeless minutes.

Manchester City 1, Tottenham 1 (1-1)

Spurs fought back from a goal behind as City gained its first point since its return to the First Division. The hosts went ahead in the 29th minute when speedy winger David White headed

home an Andy Hinchcliffe corner. But Paul Gascoigne tied the game in the 37th minute off a pass from Terry Fenwick.

Millwall 1, Nottingham Forest 0 (0-0)

Jimmy Carter's 80th-minute goal kept alive the Millwall home Hex over Forest. Brian Clough's squad never has won in the league at the Den. Carter's first shot, following a corner, was blocked. Terry Hurlock's effort from the rebound was pushed out by Steve Sutton but the ball came back to Carter, who made no mistake at his second attempt.

Norwich 0, Queens Park Rangers 0 (0-0)

Former Rangers striker Dean Coney had a golden opportunity to break the deadlock in a dull, goalless tie when Dave Phillips set up a shooting opportunity six minutes into the second half. But Coney mislaid his shot and Rangers' goalie David Seaman was able to collect the shot comfortably.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TRUST YOUR OPPONENTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 5

♥ 6

♦ K 10 6 5 3 2

♣ 10 5 4 3

WEST EAST

♠ 9 8 4 ♠ K J 10 7 6 2

♥ A K Q J 4 ♥ 9 8 5 3 2

♦ 9 ♦ J

♣ J 9 8 2 ♣ 6

SOUTH

♠ Q 3

♥ 10 7

♦ A Q 8 7 4

♣ A K Q 7

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♣

3 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

By and large, it pays to believe your opponents. After all, they ought to be trying their best to defeat you!

North's bid of three diamonds was a limit raise. East was rather pushy in the auction. With his distribution, there is no way we would have sold out at the five-level. Note that five hearts will, at worst, go down two tricks, and only one if declarer guesses the spades.

West led the king of hearts on which East followed with the nine—

a suit preference signal for spades. West dutifully shifted to the nine and declarer, naively disregarding all the information at hand, elected to play low in the hope that West was leading from the king. When clubs later failed to break, declarer could not avoid going down one trick.

Declarer overlooked a sure-trick line which he would probably have spotted had he held the deuce of spades rather than the queen. Look what would happen if declarer were to rise with the ace of spades at trick two.

Declarer draws as many rounds of trump as necessary, then ruffs a heart in dummy. He cashes two high clubs to reveal the 4-1 break, then simply exits with a spade.

If it is East who holds the king of spades, he wins but is employed. Whichever major suit he returns allows declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding a club from the other. If West has the monarch, he has an extra way to commit suicide—he can lead a club into declarer's combined queen-ten tenace.

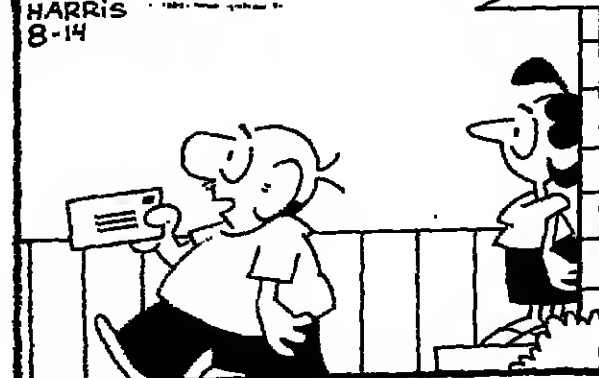
Either way, declarer loses only one trick in each major.

This line succeeds regardless of who holds the king of spades or how the clubs divide.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 8-14



"I'm mailing one of my fingernail clippings to Tahiti. Part of me in paradise is better than nothing!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BUAQS

SHOAC

FEBRYL

NEUQUI

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

ONE WOMAN'S HOBBY MIGHT BE ANOTHER WOMAN'S THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

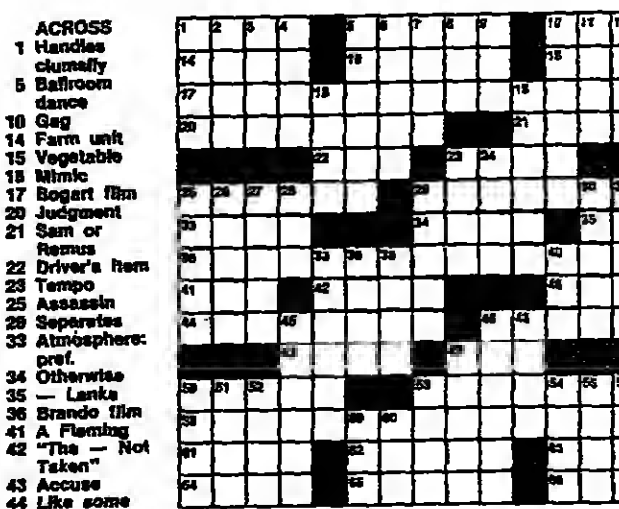
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CAKED WEDGE BISSET HEREBY

Answer: This key has been known to unlock the tongue—WHS-KEY

THE Daily Crossword

by Martha J. De Wit



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Bottom of a ship

Reel to Donagel Bay

Regale

Friend

Assist in

offense

Composer Erik

He wrote "The Merry Widow"

Matador's milieu

are my sunbath

Civil War general

Admiring award

Incorporate

Jealously

Amorced

Cover

Wolf

New Haven

Bus station

Excursions

Oil cartel

Upper house

Least goody

54 Short distance

55 Ya — Shoppe

56 Gold of tar

57 Medieval fortress city

58 Upstart

59 Frank

60 Adage

Peanuts

LUCY: DO YOU THINK IF YOU PAID ATTENTION TO THE GAME, YOU MIGHT CATCH THE BALL JUST ONCE IN YOUR LIFE?!



SURE! CRITICIZE ME IN FRONT OF EVERYONE! SHOUT IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!!



PSST...YOU'RE THE WORST PLAYER I'VE EVER SEEN!



Mutt'n' Jeff

WOW! WHAT A NICE CAKE! MAY I HAVE A PIECE, MRS. MUTT?



ER-YES, ONE PIECE!



I'M SICK TO DEATH OF WORKING ALL THIS OVERTIME



MIND YOU, I'VE NEVER HAD SO MUCH IN MY POCKET



Andy Capp

I'M SICK TO DEATH OF WORKING ALL THIS OVERTIME



MIND YOU, I'VE NEVER HAD SO MUCH IN MY POCKET



I COULD BE HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE IF I HAD THE TIME



Moldavians protest despite Kremlin's warning to Baltics

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Hundreds of thousands of Moldavians ignored a Kremlin warning to nationalists in the Baltic republics and demonstrated Sunday for their mother tongue to become the republic's official language.

By mid-afternoon, some 300,000 people had poured into the capital city of Kishinev from all over the southwestern Soviet republic, said Yuri Roshka, a spokesman for the Moldavian Popular Front.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda published an article Monday denouncing the Moldavian activists as extremists.

But Roshka, contacted by phone from Moscow, said: "There are 300,000 people out there. How can they all be extremists?"

He said the rally was going ahead despite a strong attack on Baido nationalism by the Moscow leadership Saturday.

Meanwhile, Baltic activists said they feared Moscow could be preparing for a crackdown and perhaps even the use of force to stop the nationalist clamour in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

A Central Committee statement, which took 18 minutes to read on the Saturday evening news, denounced a rising tide of anti-Soviet feeling in the Baltics and said "destructive forces" there were seeking to break up the Soviet Union.

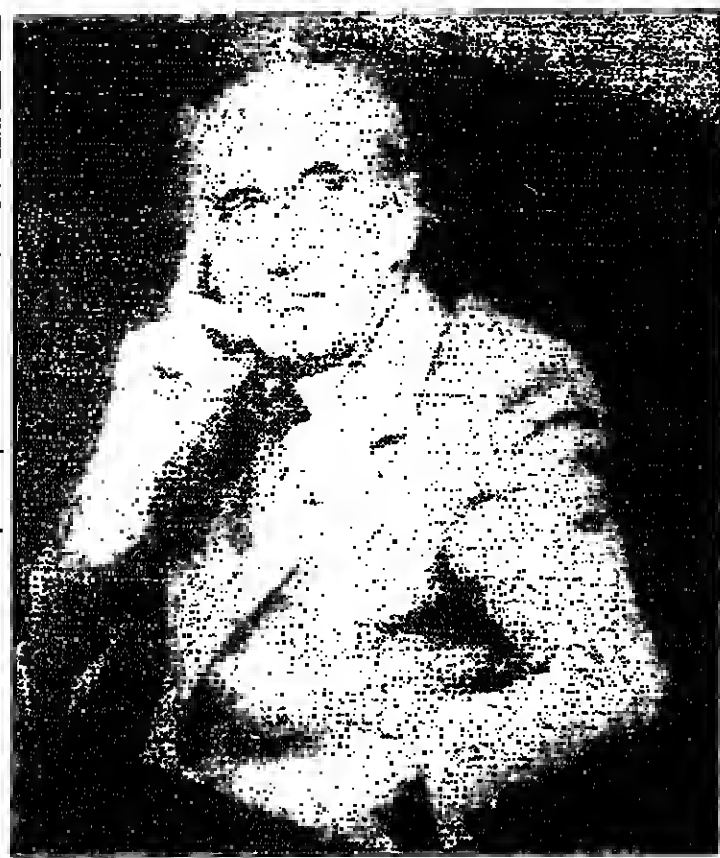
Things have gone far. Serious danger is threatening the Baltic peoples," the statement said. "People should know what abyss their nationalist leaders are pushing them toward."

In what was apparently a reference to economic problems, the message continued: "If they managed to attain their goals, the consequences could be catastrophic for their peoples. Their very ability to survive could come under question."

Vytautas Landsbergis, who heads the Lithuania movement Sajudis, said the statement appeared aimed at making the situation in the Baltics appear more tense than it really was.

"Maybe they feel they must lie to people in Russia so they will be prepared if powers in Moscow use force — introduce troops or change the (Lithuanian) government," he said by telephone from the republic's capital Vilnius.

"They want to make at least part of the Russians believe... the situation is dangerous here, although in reality everything is calm," Landsbergis said.



Tadeusz Mazowiecki

Moscow backs Polish government

WARSAW (R) — The Soviet Union has given its seal of approval to Poland's Solidarity-led government in an unexpected meeting between the head of the Soviet KGB security service and Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

KGB Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov told reporters after separate talks with Mazowiecki and President Wojciech Jaruzelski Saturday: "Everything's fine and there's nothing to worry about."

Kryuchkov gave his backing to a government led by a man jailed by the Polish Communist authorities for a year in 1981 on the same day as the Soviet Communist Party attacked growing nationalist movements in its Baltic republics.

Such firm support suggested Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is looking for a calm, stable relationship with the satellite state traditionally regarded as a strong ally as he struggles to deal with increasing unrest at home.

Gorbachev has encouraged reforms in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe. But he faces a host of problems including a stagnant economy, shortages of food and consumer goods, and resistance from party hardliners.

Reformists in Poland and Hungary want changes too. But Orthodox leadership in Romania, East Germany and Czechoslovakia are unyielding in their opposition to reform. Eastern

Europe has seldom been so divided since World War II.

Mazowiecki broke more than 40-years of communist monopoly on power in Eastern Europe Thursday when he was elected prime minister. He sent Moscow a reassuring signal by saying he would keep Poland in the Warsaw Pact military alliance.

Mazowiecki, a long-term activist of the Solidarity free trade union, assured Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Brovnikov Friday that he wanted to build up relations with Moscow, its key ally. He said Gorbachev's reforms were good for Poland.

"I wished Mazowiecki every success," Kryuchkov said after emerging smiling and relaxed from 90 minutes of talks with Mazowiecki and acting Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak.

"I liked Mazowiecki. He's a man of principles," he said.

The praise from Kryuchkov, a member of the Soviet party's policy-making Central Committee who calls himself a full supporter of Gorbachev's "glasnost" (openness) policy, was one of several boosts for Mazowiecki Saturday.

Railwaymen ended a 24-hour strike in Lodz, Poland's second biggest city, after a ringing appeal by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa. Foundry workers in the key industrial city of Katowice called for a six-month strike moratorium to help "save Poland."

Defiant Sinhalese front urges strike

COLOMBO (AP) — Sinhalese rebels called Sunday for a week-long anti-government strikes, effectively ignoring a peace overture by major opposition groups advocating constitutional reforms and fresh elections.

Sinhalese-language posters put up in Colombo by the radicals called for the strike to begin Monday in protest of alleged genocide by the government.

The posters asked people to not open businesses and remain indoors.

Pro-government groups apparently put up other posters saying anyone who heeded the strike call would be treated as a traitor.

On Saturday, five major opposition parties appealed to the government and the radicals to end their bloody war.

"Fear stalks every home and peace is a thing of the past," a statement issued by the parties said. "Despair, gloom and fear pervades the entire country. The slaughter, disappearances and arrests of our citizens and the escalation of crime have become a way of life."

The statement demanded fresh elections and the establishment of a provisional all-party government, which would include the radicals.

There has been no response to the call from the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was elected last December. His United National Party won a majority last February in a parliamentary poll.

At least 5,000 people have been killed in a two-year-old campaign by Sinhalese ultranationalists.

Officials say 1,130 of the killings have taken place in the last six weeks. Human rights organisations and opposition politicians say many of the victims have been suspected radicals shot after capture by security forces.

In past weeks, military officials have reported scores of unidentified bodies turning up daily in various parts of the island.

In the latest violence, military officials said five people were killed Saturday when unidentified gunmen ambushed a convoy of Sri Lankan and Indian soldiers near the town of Vavuniya, 215 kilometres north of Colombo.

The officials said they were unsure who was responsible for the attack.

The victims included four Sri Lankans and an Indian soldier, said the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

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Distributors try to slither into shops

LONDON (R) — A video firm posted hundreds of Chinese rat snakes with its latest horror film, causing panic when they wriggled out of their boxes and slid across video shop counters.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) was flooded with telephone calls. It has placed its inspectors on full alert ready to retrieve the 438 silver-grey non-venomous snakes sent out so far. The RSPCA called the publicity gimmick cruel and irresponsible. But a spokesman for the video firm CIC Video Distributors said no cruelty was intended and the snakes were fed before beginning their postal journey. "Whenever we launch a new video title, we normally send out our distributors posters, sleeves and cardboard cut-outs.

With this film, we decided to send snakes. In marketing terms it's called live points of sale."

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Deadlocked Cambodia peace talks limp into final round

PARIS (R) — A 19-nation peace conference on Cambodia limps into its final ministerial session Monday, crippled by the inability of the country's warring factions to strike a power-sharing deal in a month of negotiations.

After an impressive start which attracted world statesmen to Paris and raised the possibility of an end to two decades of bloodshed, the conference now seems headed for failure.

"There's been no progress between the Cambodian factions and a polarisation between the international players. There's reason to believe there will be a total collapse," one Asian-based envoy said in Paris Sunday.

Asian foreign ministers began arriving over the weekend. The Canadian, Australian and Japanese foreign ministers were also due to join their French and Indonesian colleagues Roland Dumas and Ali Alatas, co-chairman of the conference.

But the superpowers were conspicuously absent.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was the first major figure to announce that he would not be attending the three-day concluding session which is due to open Monday.

Diplomats said they believed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would also be staying away, as was Foreign Secretary John Major of Britain.

China said Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, whose presence in Paris a month ago was a minor diplomatic coup for the talks' French sponsors, would attend only if a last-minute settlement was reached.

That left France, sponsor and co-president of the Cambodian conference, as the only one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to still be represented at foreign minister level.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said Baker believed the Cambodian government and its Vietnamese backers had not shown enough flexibility to achieve a settlement with the guerrilla groups which have fought Phnom Penh for 10 years.

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